

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

Masato TANAKA et al.

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J. R. West

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited this date with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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February 13, 2004 1185 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10036 (212) 278-0400

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Official Action of September 8, 2003, Applicants respectfully request that the above-identified application be amended as follows.

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page two of this paper.

Remarks begin on page eight of this paper.